

UNOFFICIAL

MINUTES OF MEETING

RHODE ISLAND AIRPORT CORPORATION

GENERAL AVIATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 8, 2004

11:00 a.m.

**in the Mary Brennan Board Room, T. F. Green Airport, Warwick,
Rhode Island**

The meeting of the Rhode Island Airport Corporation (“Corporation”) General Aviation Committee was called to order by Chair, Charles Gaffney at 11:00 a.m., in the Mary Brennan Board Room, at T. F. Green Airport, Warwick, Rhode Island, in accordance with the notice duly posted pursuant to the Open Meetings Law.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles Gaffney, Joseph Larisa (arrived at 11:20).

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT: Michael Traficante.

ALSO PRESENT: Laurie Cullen, Sr. VP Planning, Engineering and Environmental; David Cloutier, AVP Commercial Programs; Ted Drozd, Chief Aeronautics Inspector; Steve Tibbetts, General Manager - Hawthorne Aviation; and those individuals listed on the attendance sheet attached hereto.

1. Approval of the Minutes: Mr. Larisa moved that the minutes of the General Aviation Committee Meeting of Thursday, June 3, 2004, be approved. Mr. Gaffney seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

2. Open Forum: Mr. Gaffney invited members of the audience to speak in Open Session. None came forward.

3. Chair's Report: Mr. Gaffney reported that the sales tax legislation had passed both the House and the Senate. Mr. Rosati is concerned about the operations of a parachuting operational at the North Central Airport.

4. General Aviation Report:

Mr. Tibbetts reported that operations at the GA airports are holding steady with the exception of Quonset, where operations are slightly down due to military deployment. Mr. Tibbetts reported that New England Airline's has reported a decrease in operations and passenger counts.

Mr. Tibbetts reported that fuel prices continue to rise and have impacted fuel sales at the General Aviation airports. Mr. Tibbetts noted that jet fuel sales at North Central have decreased. Citizens is using North Central Airport periodically but is not purchasing fuel.

Citizens is still expressing an interest in moving back to North Central if the sales tax is repealed

Mr. Tibbetts reported there have been discussions with Net Jets regarding the utilization of Quonset Airport. Net Jets is interested in Quonset Airport but the drawbacks are a lack of hangar space and de-icing services that are detrimental to year round operations.

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5. Aeronautics Report:

Mr. Drozd reported that a follow up on the 5010 Inspection of the Richmond Airport is scheduled for the first week of August. Mr. Gaffney asked that the Committee be kept apprised of any progress on this issue. Mr. Drozd reported Taxiway Whiskey at Quonset Airport has been closed. Mr. Gaffney asked what the impact of the closure will be. Mr. Drozd reported there is back taxing on the runway that could cause a safety issue until the taxiway can be resurfaced. Mr. Gaffney asked what needs to be done to get the taxiway up to standard. Mr. Cloutier reported that the taxiway needs to be reconstructed and the work is scheduled for next year. There was general discussion of potential safety issues because of the closure. Mr. Drozd noted that Quonset is a towered airport and the tower is not giving clearance on that taxiway. The area in question is also barricaded.

Mr. Drozd reported the 5010 Inspection has been completed at

Block Island Airport and that trees have been cut and the controlling obstructions moved further away from the runway. Mr. Drozdz reported the next two (2) inspections are scheduled for Newport Airport and Quonset Airport.

Mr. Drozdz reported that there were three (3) minor incidents at Block Island Airport and Quonset Airport. At Block Island Airport, there was a light run over and a wing tip incident. At North Central there was an sky diving incident where a jumper landed on an angle and twisted his ankle.

Mr. Drozdz reported the New England Region FAA Runway Safety Program office will be presenting the Chili Chowdah Fly In at Quonset on September 18, 2004.

6. Discussion Items:

(a) Update on Quonset & Block Island Master Plans:

Mr. Mini reported that the Quonset Master Plan is scheduled to start after the Board meeting. Mr. Mini reported there are currently two (2) components of the plan,, the Airport Development Plan and the Quonset Airport Master Plan. Mr. Mini reported RIAC met with EDC last week to finalize an agreement on the non FAA funded fees for the Airport Development Plan. Mr. Mini reported the Block Island Master Plan will soon be finalized. There is work is being done on possible

terminal and airfield alternatives and meetings will be held in the upcoming weeks to discuss.

(b) Update on General Aviation Airport Obstruction Removal Programs.

Ms. Hayes reported that work is being done on developing an application to submit to the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) for clearing obstructions at Westerly Airport. Ms. Hayes reported that RIAC is working with the FAA for funding of the clearing that may begin in the winter of 2004. Mr. Mini reported the overall clearing at Block Island Airport has been completed. Mr. Mini reported that the North Central Airport environmental assessment has been completed and the FAA has found no significant impact for on and off-airport obstruction removal that is scheduled for Fall of 2004. Mr. Mini reported that the FAA 5 year Capital Improvement Program at Westerly Airport is being assessed. Mr. Mini reported there will be limited clearing conducted on-airport at Westerly in August 2004.

(c) Discussion of Hangar Development Business Case.

Mr. Cloutier reported that business cases are not a new concept and that there are benefits hangar construction at both Quonset Airport and North Central Airports. Mr. Cloutier reported that Hawthorne staff continues to work on the concept of pre-leasing hangar space. Mr.

Tibbetts reported the tenants are interested in pre-leasing hangar space.

7. Executive Session.

(a) Discussion Related to the Acquisition of Real Estate - R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5 (a)(5).

(b) Discussion(s) Related to Potential Litigation – R. I. G. L. § 42-46-5(a)(2).

At approximately 11:23 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. Larisa and seconded by Mr. Gaffney to go into Executive Session. By the following roll call vote the motion was passed unanimously.

YEAS: Charles Gaffney

Joseph Larisa

NAYS: None

At approximately 11:59 a.m. a motion was made by Mr. Larisa to return to the Open Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gaffney. The motion was passed unanimously.

8. Future Meetings:

The next General Aviation Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 12,, 2004 at 11:00 a.m., in the Mary Brennan Board Room, at T. F. Green Airport.

9. Adjournment: Mr. Larisa moved to adjourn at approximately 11:59 p.m. Mr. Gaffney seconded the motion. The motion was carried by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted

**Charles Gaffney, Chair
General Aviation Committee of the
Rhode Island Airport Corporation**

**ATTENDANCE SHEET
RHODE ISLAND AIRPORT CORPORATION**

GENERAL AVIATION COMMITTEE

July 8, 2004

NAME	AFFILIATION
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Patti Goldstein	RIAC
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Liberty Luciano	RIAC
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Alicia Spearing	RIAC
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Steve St. Onge	Hawthorne
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**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION
OF THE RHODE ISLAND AIRPORT CORPORATION
GENERAL AVIATION COMMITTEE MEETING
July 8, 2004**

1. At approximately 11:23 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. Larisa and seconded by Mr. Gaffney to go into Executive Session. The motion

was passed unanimously.

2. Mr. Cloutier reported there has been further discussion on the Harris Farm property and there is a need to regroup internally to discuss the requests made by both RIAC and the property owner on land rights. Mr. Harris has requested a copy of the appraisal performed on the property by the Rhode Island Airport Corporation. Ms. Cullen requested information be gathered collectively and discussed at the next Board meeting.

3. Mr. Cloutier reported that an aviation expert has done an analysis of on and off-airport site surfaces at Westerly Airport. Mr. Drozdz also updated the Committee on the skydiving accident at North Central Airport in September 2002. There was general discussion on the safety conditions and the guidelines set by the Federal Aviation Administration. Mr. Gaffney requested that RIAC staff contact the FAA regarding the guidelines for jump schools and report the findings at the next General Aviation meeting.

At approximately 11:59 a.m. a motion was made by Mr. Larisa to return to the Open Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gaffney. By the following roll call vote the motion was passed unanimously.

YEAS: Charles Gaffney

Joseph Larisa

NAYS: None

Respectfully submitted

**Charles Gaffney, Chair General Aviation Committee of the
Rhode Island Airport Corporation**